

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03255 261906Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05  
MCT-01 EA-10 SY-05 IO-13 AID-05 /107 W  
-----046823 270149Z /73

R 261842Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8598  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, SHUM, ES

SUBJECT: RISING RHYTHM OF TERRORISM IN EL SALVADOR

1. AS PAST WEEK DREW TO A CLOSE, MOST NOTABLE FEATURE  
OF SAN SALVADOR SCENE SEEMED TO BE RISING RHYTHM OF REAL  
OR PERCEIVED TERRORIST EVENTS.

2. HARDLY HAD ERNESTO SOL MEZA BEEN RANSOMED BY HIS  
FAMILY FOR A REPORTED TEN MILLION COLONES (US DOLS 4 MILLION),  
AND WITH JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN FUJIO MATSUMOTO STILL MISSING,  
WHEN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OCCURRED:

A. THURSDAY MADDAY KIDNAPPING OF ADOLFO MCENTEE,  
PROMINENT SALVADORAN BUSINESSMAN;

B. THURSDAY EVENING KIDNAPPING OF SALVADORAN MANAGER OF  
US ADVERTISING FIRM TOGETHER WITH HIS SECRETARY;  
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C. FRIDAY MORNING SEIZURE BY FAPU OF OAS OFFICE;

D. FRIDAY AFTERNOON EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE BETWEEN UNIDENTIFIED  
INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACT NATIONAL GUARD BODYGUARDS OF  
PROMINENT DE SOLA FAMILY;

E. FRIDAY NIGHT MURDER OF PROMINENT LOCAL LAWYER  
BY SEVERAL MEN AS HE ARRIVED AT HIS HOME (THIS MAY OR  
MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AN ACT OF POLITICAL TERRORISM BUT ITS  
TIMING ADDS FUEL TO THE FIRE);

F. FRIDAY NIGHT ARRIVAL AT A DIPLOMATIC SOCIAL  
AFFAIR OF BADLY SHAKEN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL'S WIFE WHO  
HAD JUST HAD HER CAR PROFESSIONALLY BLOCKED BY TWO  
CHEROKEE WAGONS EACH OCCUPIED BY SEVERAL MEN (AFTER  
LOOKING INTO HER CAR, THEY LET HER PROCEED).

3. RESULT OF ALL THIS IS GROWING AND GENERALIZED SENSE  
OF APPREHENSION WITH DEMANDS ON ALL SIDES THAT GOVERNMENT  
"DO SOMETHING." INEVITABLY THERE ARE ALSO SUGGESTIONS  
THAT A STRONGER HAND IS NEEDED AT THE HELM AND THAT  
SOME MILITARY MAY BE THINKING IN TERMS OF A POSSIBLY  
PREMATURE SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT ROMERO. SECURITY AND  
TERRORISM HAVE DISPLACED MOST OTHER TOPICS OF CONVERSATION  
UPON SOCIAL OCCASIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, COUNTERINSURGENCY, TERRORISTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SANSAS03255  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780265-0649  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2209018  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RISING RHYTHM OF TERRORISM IN EL SALVADOR  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ASEC, SHUM, ES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014